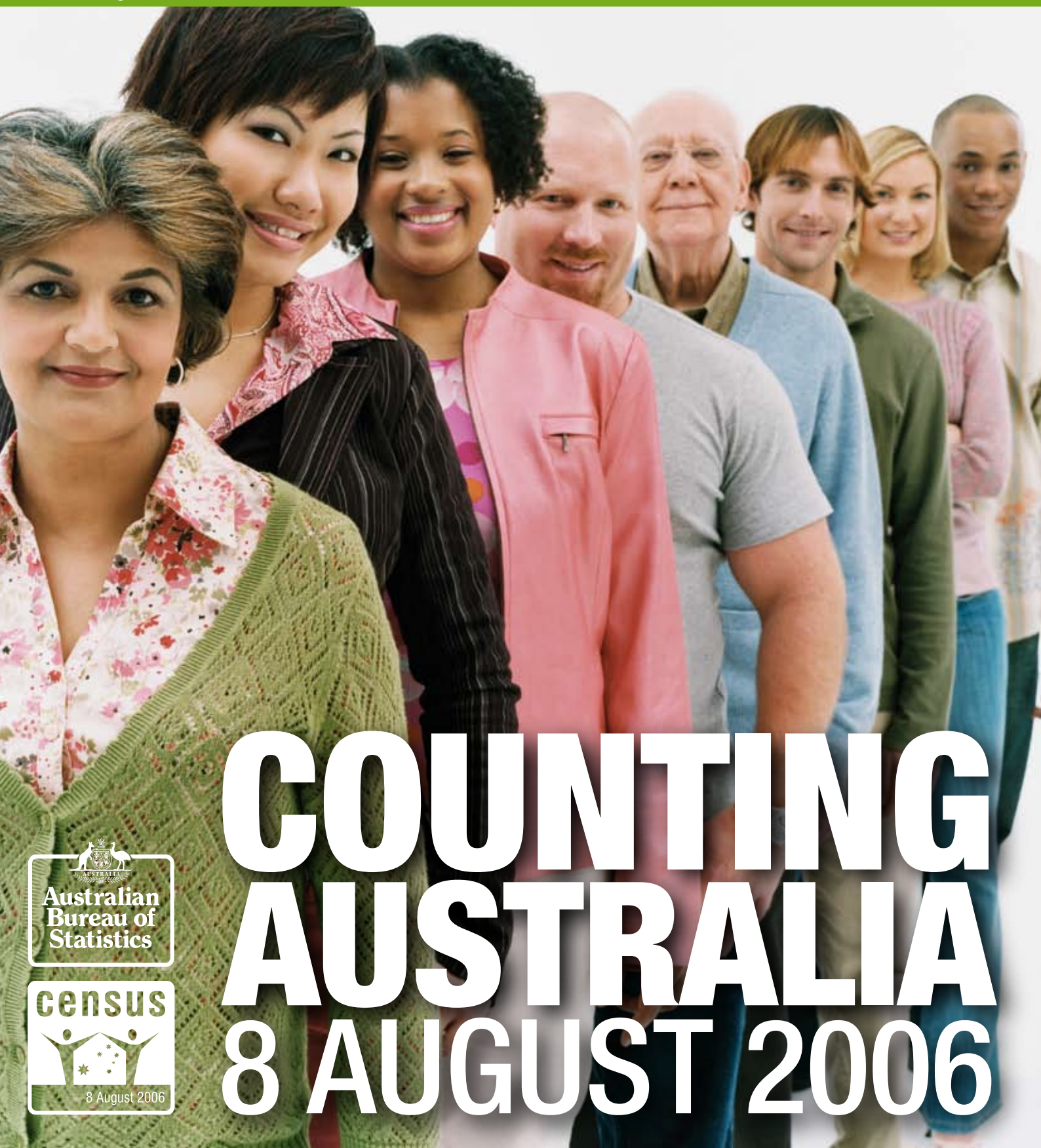


census

UPDATE

www.abs.gov.au/census

JULY 2006 ISSUE 39



COUNTING AUSTRALIA 8 AUGUST 2006



NEW WEB INTERFACE • FREE STATS ON WEB • VISIT www.abs.gov.au



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Census Update is a regular free newsletter from Census Marketing at the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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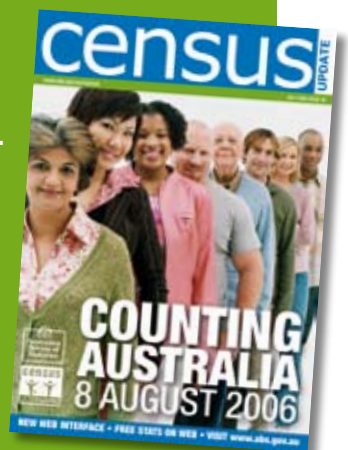
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NEW CENSUS NEW LOOK

Welcome to the new look Census Update.

Census Update has been an important part of the ABS' commitment towards maintaining regular contact with you, the users of Census data. It offers regular, useful information about Australia's biggest survey - the Census of Population and Housing.

First released in September 1991, this unique reference source has evolved through the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Censuses. What started out as a black and white hard copy newsletter is now available on the ABS web site as a .pdf and in html, as well as in print for special occasions. It is regularly distributed to over 3,000 potential and existing Census data clients across the country.

Census Update is reflective of the stages in the Census cycle - articles are about what's happening at the ABS in terms of planning, implementation and post evaluation. There's behind the scenes information, explanations of terminology and processes, and information about the range of Census products available both now and in the future.

With the 2006 Census fast approaching, we're offering you a revamped layout and hope you continue to find Census Update a valuable resource for your decision making needs.

Census Marketing team
Australian Bureau of Statistics



Past issues of
Census Update



2006 CENSUS IS COMING

On 8 August this year, all households will be asked to make their contribution towards the head count of Australia. The Census not only provides a useful 'snapshot' of the Australian population, but it offers a valuable basis for future planning.

For 2006, several new questions have been added to the Census form, and it will also be possible to fill out the form online – the eCensus.

There will also be an opportunity for people to provide a legacy of information about living in 2006 – by being a part of a Time Capsule. People can opt-in to have their records kept for 99 years in the National Archives of Australia.

The Internet is the way of today and the future. With this in mind, the ABS has moved with the times to offer you

a range of web-based products for Census statistics. A new, simplified interface will be in place July 2006 – giving you time to familiarise yourself before the 2006 data is released.

The ABS is striving to achieve the best possible outcome for the 2006 Census, in the interest of all Australians. It not only tells us the number of people living in each state/territory, but it offers an insight into how we live as Australians.

Paul Williams, Head of Census and Geography Branch at the ABS.



Did you know

This is the fifteenth Census conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics since 1911.

Your Views about 2006 Census Products

For the 2006 Census a range of new web-based products is being developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Consultation sessions have been integral to this process, offering clients the chance to have their say about the [proposed release strategy](#) and the [2006 Census products](#).

Two surveys and a series of face-to-face sessions have been conducted annually in every state and territory across Australia since the 2001 Census. This process has been valuable in guiding the development of ABS products and assisting us to coordinate an agenda for further information sessions planned with clients late in 2006.

Findings from the latest survey and feedback sessions include:

- The Basic Community Profile was the most commonly used out of the Profiles available in 2001.
- The largest proportion of respondents reported using Census data for general research purposes.
- Just over half of respondents indicated that they used Census data for planning purposes.
- The three most commonly used geographies were Local Government Area, Statistical Local Area and Collection District.

- A larger proportion of respondents indicated support for the change to release of data by usual residence firstly, then by place of enumeration.
- There was overwhelming support for the provision of Census products in Excel format.

This information has guided the development of the 2006 Census product range, ensuring it will be relevant and reflective of the needs of our users.

Find it free **online**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics received additional funding in the May 2005 Budget to provide free access to electronic versions of ABS publications on its web site.

You can now access an expanded range of free publications on the ABS web site, including:

- electronic publications; and
- electronic tables in spreadsheet or data cube format which contain publication tables.

Printed copies of publications are still available and can be purchased either:

Online at www.abs.gov.au or

By calling **1300 135 070**.

Soon you will be able to sample Census statistics in their new format via the ABS web site. This is a valuable opportunity to familiarise yourself with the new, simplified interface before the 2006 data is available.

A taste of what's to come...

As of now, you can access 2001 Census data for free via the following online options:

New Quickstats — A quick and simple summary of key Census data relating to persons, families and dwellings.

New Census Tables — A product that offers you the ability to obtain Census data in a single table for a specified geographic area.

Community Profiles — A series of profiles providing key Census characteristics related to persons, families and dwellings, covering most topics on the Census form.

More products will be available online in the future:

New Quickmaps — A range of thematic Census maps based on larger geographies depicting selected population, ethnicity, family, income, labour force and dwelling characteristics.

New CDATA Online — A sophisticated product aimed at offering expert clients freedom to select and combine geographic areas from a single Collection District (CD) through to an entire state/territory or Australia.

New Table Builder — Aimed at experienced users, this priced product will allow you to design and populate your own tables of Census data via an interactive web interface.

Bookmark www.abs.gov.au and follow the Census link to check out new Census developments as they happen.

Did you know

The Census collection process is a massive task, taking twelve months from the start of processing in late August until the first Census data is released.

New Census, New Look Web page

The new web pages for 2006 Census are now available on the ABS web site and can be viewed at www.abs.gov.au following the Census links.

These new pages have been designed to inform you about the upcoming Census and will provide information such as:

- a countdown clock (counting down until Census night)
- frequently asked questions
- translated information for ethnic communities, and
- other useful Census information.

The web pages will continually be updated both during the lead-up and after Census Night (8 August) with key issues and upcoming events. These will include:

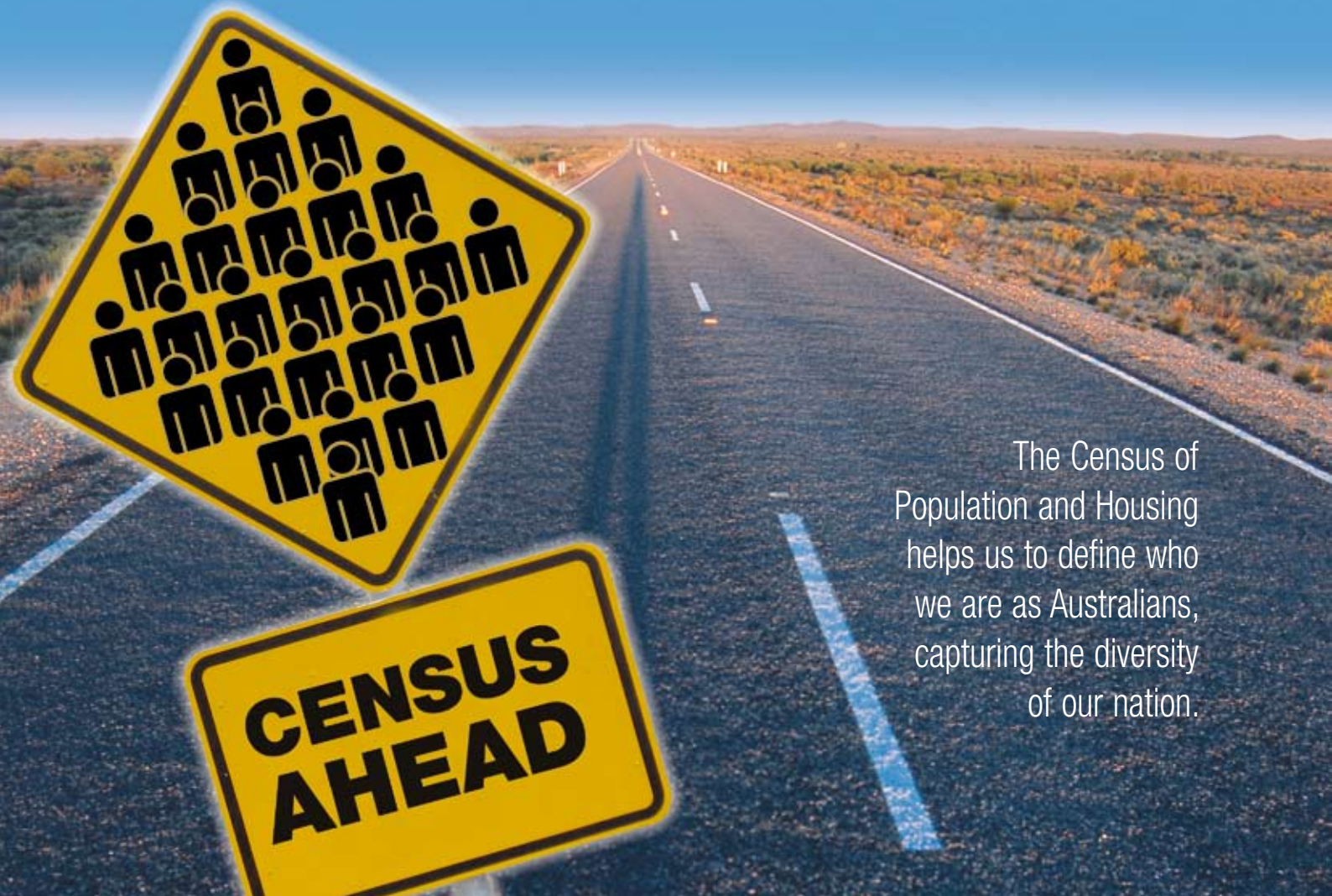
- the opening of the Census Information Service (CIS)
- announcing the delivery and collection of Census household forms, and
- the eCensus form, available closer to Census night.

Data from previous censuses will continue to be available from these pages as well as updates and information about the release of 2006 data.

Make sure you bookmark the new 2006 Census home page as it will be a valuable resource for all your questions and needs both before and after Census Night.



WE ALL COUNT



The Census of Population and Housing helps us to define who we are as Australians, capturing the diversity of our nation.

For the Census of Population and Housing to provide the best possible snapshot of our population, it needs to count everyone in Australia. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ethnic communities, the homeless and people who may have difficulty filling out the Census form.

The following strategies are in place to ensure we provide the best possible count of the Australian population.

Cultural Diversity

The Ethnic Enumeration Strategy aims to gain support, and encourage participation in the Census from the many community groups and nationalities in Australia. In particular, the strategy focuses on groups identified as likely to be missed or undercounted, such as recent immigrants to Australia.

Fact sheets about the 2006 Census are available in more than 30 languages.

These fact sheets are designed to assist in the use and interpretation of the Census form, help explain confidentiality, and other conceptual and data issues.

A Census Inquiry Service catering for people speaking a language other than English will be available from 28 July. The Census Inquiry Service Language Helpline will operate from 8.30am to 8.00pm (local time), 7 days a week, on 1300 363 365.



The Homeless

The Homeless Enumeration Strategy recognises and addresses social and cultural barriers to the effective enumeration of homeless people. It aims to encourage homeless people to be aware of, and participate in, the Census.

A range of tactics and suggestions are in place to specifically improve the enumeration of homeless people:

- without a conventional “roof” over their heads, such as people sleeping on the streets, under bridges, in parks, squatting or in improvised dwellings; and
- staying temporarily in public or private dwellings, such as boarding houses, hostels, crisis accommodation or in the homes of friends or relatives.

A homeless enumeration manager has been allocated for each State/Territory. For further information, see below.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The Indigenous Enumeration Strategy is a collection of procedures which address potential barriers, caused by cultural factors, to the effective enumeration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The strategy also encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be aware of, and participate in the Census.

The strategy covers the enumeration of Indigenous people located in remote, rural and urban areas.

Contact the Indigenous Manager for your State/Territory if you'd like to find out more information about the Census for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Census Inquiry line is available on 1300 362 883 or you can visit www.abs.gov.au and follow the Census links.

People with disabilities

Those with disabilities are encouraged to enlist the help of people they trust, such as family members, friends, carers and neighbours to help fill out their Census form. Organisations for people with disabilities, and carers groups, are also encouraged to help wherever possible. In some cases a Census Collector may be required to assist. They are required by law to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all citizens. Special Collectors using standard Census forms have also been recruited to assist people in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement villages and hostels.

The Census gives everyone a chance to make themselves and their communities count. By taking part in the Census, specific group and community characteristics can be collected. This will help ensure that funding allocations are reflective of the needs of these groups in areas as diverse as housing, education, health, environment, transport, roads, employment and community services.

Need to know more about the Census?

An extensive range of fact sheets and contact information about these enumeration strategies are available from the *2006 Census: what you need to know* link on the [Census home page](#). The Census Inquiry line is available to assist you from 28 July on 1300 362 883.

eCensus - the key to quick Census entries

Throughout its history, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has been quick to adopt technical innovation.

One indicator of that is the speed with which the ABS has introduced an Internet option for the Census.

The Internet option, called the eCensus, will give householders the opportunity to fill in their Census forms online.

So for the 2006 Census - to be held on 8 August - householders will be given the usual paper Census form and a sealed envelope containing a PIN number which gives them access to the eCensus option.

Householders will also be supplied with a guide which will show them how to fill in the eCensus form online, along with the usual information about how to fill in the paper form.

Based on testing to date, the ABS expects approximately 10% of the population, or around 800 000 households, to complete their Census form online. Testing has shown that approximately 30% of these households (267 000) are likely to complete their form after 6pm on Census night, Tuesday 8 August 2006, with a further 20% (160 000) likely to complete their form the following day.

Peter Clark, Assistant Director, eCensus and Field Communications of the ABS,

is coordinating the eCensus. He said he was sure Internet Service Providers (ISPs) would be ready for the eCensus. The ABS has written to ISPs letting them know the eCensus is coming, so that there are no unnecessary barriers preventing people from using the eCensus.

"When we started this project, we really weren't sure how many people might take up the Internet option. The take-up was potentially big, so we made sure the system would be able to handle a high load," Mr Clark said.

He said the ABS had done what it could to ensure users would have a good experience with the eCensus.

The introduction of the eCensus option was a result of public expectation to be able to fill their Census form online. The final spur to the development of the eCensus came with the passage of the Electronic Transactions Act of 1999. This Act required all Australian Government Departments to provide the means for the public to interact with the government electronically.

The ABS began development of the eCensus alternative and even managed to have a very small scale version ready for the 2001 Census. Since then the

eCensus has been further developed and rigorously tested.

Leading up to each Census, the ABS conducts a series of tests to fine tune its Census procedures. The test program culminates in a Census dress rehearsal, held in selected areas around Australia one year before the Census. In the Census dress rehearsal of August 2005, householders were given the eCensus option. There was an 8% take up of the eCensus option in the dress rehearsal. The take up in urban and rural areas was similar. New Zealand also used an Internet option for its Census held in March. About 7.5% of people used the option.

The ABS is very confident of the integrity of the system and the security of the data. ABS officers will be monitoring the eCensus site closely.

The ABS chose IBM to develop and support its eCensus program because of IBM's expertise in web-based solutions and scalable infrastructure. eCensus information is encrypted at all times while in the system and IBM does not have the keys required to decrypt the data. This means that no-one outside the ABS can gain access to any eCensus data.



Did you know

If all the guides to filling out the Census were laid end to end, the paper would stretch around the entire Australian coastline.

CENSUS ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 06

The first Census Analysis Conference, hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is to be held in Canberra on 18 and 19 July 2006.

Making the most of YOUR CENSUS

The conference has been designed to raise awareness of the analytical and research capabilities of Census data, while at the same time inform users about the 2006 Census. The conference will not only give an opportunity for experienced researchers and analysts to present their findings to an audience, but will allow for the audience to see the diversity of Census data and how it can be used.

The conference has been aimed at high end data users such as academic and market researchers and those people (specifically government) that use data in their policy and decision making.

There are three parallel sessions to be held over two days, with over 40 presenters speaking on a variety of topics based around Demography, Labour

Force, Health, Education and Census, all using Census data in their findings.

A number of invited speakers will be presenting at the conference including: Dr Natalie Jackson (University of Tasmania); Professor Graeme Hugo (University of Adelaide); Dr Bob Birrell (Monash University); Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain (RMIT University); Mr David Mackenzie (Swinburne University); Professor Peter McDonald (Australian National University); and Professor Ann Harding (University of Canberra). These invited speakers along with some ABS speakers, and the researchers/analysts who submitted papers make up the two day program.

With the great response from both speakers and attendees, this conference is likely to become a regular event in the lead up to each Census of Population and Housing.



All papers and presentations from the Census Analysis Conference are available free on CD-ROM. If you would like to receive a copy please email Victoria Allen at victoria.allen@abs.gov.au. Numbers are limited so email today to learn more about how you can make the most of your Census.

Census Dictionary

2006 Census of Population and Housing Census Dictionary

The Census of Population and Housing provides a wealth of information about the Australian community. This information is made available through a suite of standard products or as data tailored to suit individual user requirements. The [2006 Census Dictionary \(cat.no. 2901.0\)](#) is a comprehensive reference guide, designed to assist users of 2006 Census data, to determine and specify their output requirements and to develop a better understanding of the conceptual issues underlying the data.

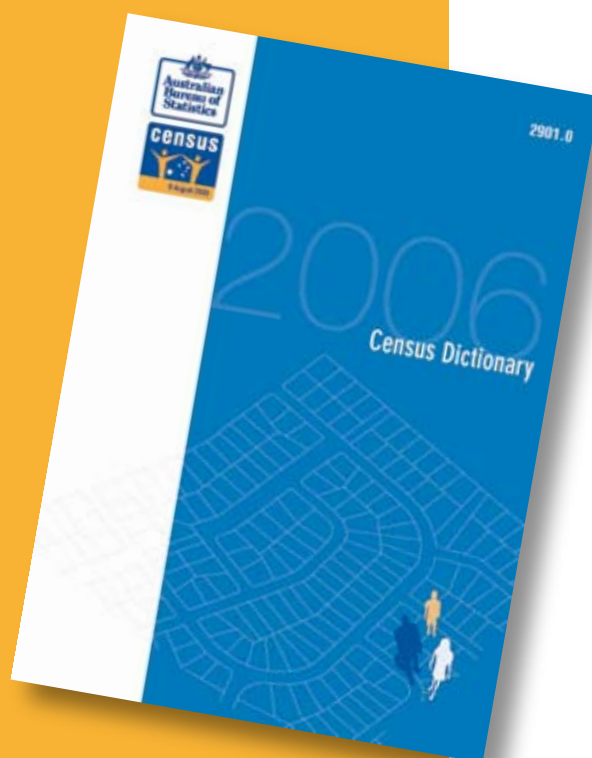
The 2006 Census Dictionary contains information about the 2006 Census classifications, which are the standard output variables for which data is produced. The Dictionary also describes the new topics introduced in the 2006 Census and summarises classification changes that have occurred since the 2001 Census.

Alongside the classifications is a comprehensive glossary, which contains definitions of census terms, and explanations of the concepts relevant to census collection, data processing and data output, including geographic concepts. Entries in this section of the Dictionary are cross-referenced to major related entries, many of which refer directly to questions on the 2006 Census form.

Additional features are:

- listing of the 2006 Census output variables
- listing of all standard classifications used in the 2006 Census
- indexes of topics, first and second release variables, and mnemonics (4 letter codes) which are used to describe census variables
- a new section about managing census data quality.

The 2006 Census Dictionary should prove an invaluable reference for all census data users. The 2006 Census Dictionary was released on 26 May 2006 and is available for purchase as a hardcopy publication and to be viewed electronically on the ABS web site. It will also appear on *The Census Guide* interactive CD-ROM, to be released in September 2006.



How Australia might look in 99 years time is a matter for speculation. But the people of 2105 will certainly have an idea about how we lived in 2006.

The Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewin, at the Census Time Capsule launch at the National Archives of Australia.

Your chance to make history!

The lives of leaders and other newsworthy figures of our day will be recorded, but they are not the only ones who have a chance to be a part of Australia's history.

In the 2006 Census, all respondents have the option of having their Census information saved for future generations. This option is called the Census Time Capsule. If people answer yes to this option the personal information on their Census form will be microfilmed and kept securely for 99 years by the National Archives of Australia.

After this time the information will be publicly released. It will be available to historians and genealogists for study. It will also be available to your own descendants. It will provide a valuable insight into how we lived at the beginning of the 21st Century.

The Census Time Capsule is not a 'capsule' as such but secure storage areas within the purpose built repositories of the National Archives. These special

areas are accessible only to authorised National Archives staff.

This will be the second Census in which Australians have had the option of saving their Census information in this way. The first was in 2001. In 2001, just over 50 per cent of people chose to have their information preserved. Before that an individual's Census information was destroyed after being processed into statistics.

The 2001 Time Capsule project came into being after the Federal Government accepted the recommendation from the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs report, *Saving Our Census and Preserving Our History*, which called for the retention of personally-identified Census information.

This report stated that "saving this data for future research, with appropriate safeguards, will make a valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations".

Since then it has been decided that the Time Capsule option will be made a permanent feature of the Census.

Question 60 on the household 2006 Census form (question 54 on the personal Census form) is where people can choose to become part of the Time Capsule project.

Census information will only be retained for people who select 'yes' to this option. Each individual in a household will have the choice of whether they want to have their information retained. After the information of those who chose yes is copied on to microfilm their Census forms will be destroyed. All Census forms are destroyed at the end of processing, and the ABS does not keep any copies of these forms.

Information held in the 2001 Time Capsule will be publicly available from 7 August, 2100 and information in the 2006 Time Capsule will be publicly available from 8 August, 2105.

A moving picture of children's communities

Students at Richmond West Primary School will see their artwork on Melbourne's trams in the month before the 8 August Census.

The group of students from grades 5 and 6 were judged winners of the Census Tram Art Competition on 21 June 2006. The competition asked students to work as a class or smaller group to create a banner artwork that incorporates such Census related themes as diversity, housing, schools, community, transport and parks.

The competition looked to fulfil educational goals whilst raising awareness of the links between the Census and children's communities. The judges, comprising Andrew Henderson, Director of Census in Victoria, Nadia del Piero of RedCrayon graphic design and Mara Rebellato, a Victorian Primary School teacher, said that the Richmond West work was chosen from a rich field of entries.

"There were probably 20 or more pictures that I would have been more than happy to see out there representing what the Census is all about," said Mr Henderson. "The kids have really made that connection between the Census and community services and amenities."

"The entries were vibrant, well thought out and in some cases very sophisticated," said Ms Rebellato. "It's clear that a lot of work was put in and the kids enjoyed themselves."

"The winning entry was particularly strong," said Ms del Piero. "It is bold and creative, uses a range of media to good effect and really reflects what kids see in their communities."

"The Census paints a picture of Australian communities," said Andrew Henderson.

"Melbourne's tram system is iconic throughout Australia," said Mr Henderson, "so the competition highlights both the way in which the Census shows what is unique about the people of Melbourne as well as the way it is used to plan services like public transport."

As well as seeing their artwork travelling the streets of Melbourne, the winning entry will be printed on t-shirts which will form part of a prize pack for each student in the class.

The artwork will hit the streets in mid-July and a special presentation for the students is planned for 18 July.

For more information email Iain.Sutherland@abs.gov.au



Knowledge network for the nation

ABS' partnership with libraries

Everything you wanted to know about the Census is waiting for you down at your local library!

Information at the library shows what the Census means to you, how it benefits individuals and groups and how it helps in planning tomorrow's Australia.

Libraries throughout Australia, with their wide geographical spread, are in an ideal partnership with the ABS, communicating statistical awareness to the wider community.

Called the Library Extension Program, or LEP, it is a partnership that provides a knowledge network for everyone via its participating public, reference and academic libraries nationwide.

The LEP came into existence in 1991, and since then it has flourished. It is recognised within the ABS as being central to the Bureau's business as the nation's statistical agency. The program incorporates 519 libraries.

The ABS LEP network gives people in Australia — wherever there are libraries — the opportunity to learn about the Census: how it is an absolute necessity in a democracy and what it does for communities and individuals in terms of planning.

The ABS has been providing LEP libraries with comprehensive Census display materials, including posters and



The Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewhin, (left) the Executive Director of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Sue Hutley, and Director Library and Extension Services, Debrah Lewis, celebrating Library and Information Week

brochures, right from the start when 2006 Census recruitment of about 30 000 field officers began.

The ABS is also making available to libraries material for library staff to insert into their newsletters - equally available to clubs and other community organisations to disseminate to their stakeholders.

A tremendous amount of Census material is also available on a special ABS CD-ROM product for libraries, called *CLIB 2001: the Census @ Your Library*. This is sent to all requesting libraries, whether or not they participate in the LEP.

Some libraries around Australia will be open on Census night, giving the public the facility to conveniently complete their Census form on-line. If people have concerns about security of a shared PC, or privacy of their information in a public space, they should complete the paper form. Any information lodged through the system will be protected by strong data encryption and by a series of firewalls and other security hardware once it is received by the ABS.

So when you get down to your local library, you can reflect upon the way we were, how we are now, and what the future holds.

ABS Offices in your State/Territory

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Web

Visit www.abs.gov.au and follow the Census link to check out new and future Census developments as they happen.

Email

Keep up to date with the latest Census news and information by emailing census.users@abs.gov.au and typing "add to Census email" in the subject field. You can opt out at any time.

Phone

Call the National Information and Referral Service on **1300 135 070**.

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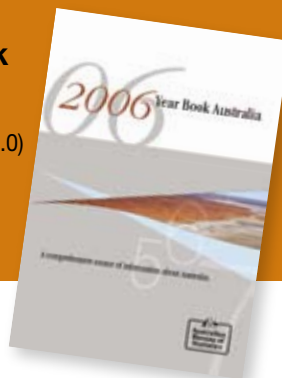
The latest publications from the ABS!

Measures of Australia's Progress (cat. no. 1370.0)



A biennial publication which provides a digestible selection of statistical evidence that will allow Australians to make their own assessment of whether life in Australia is getting better.

Year Book Australia (cat. no. 1301.0)



A comprehensive and definitive source of facts about Australia. The Year Book has 30 chapters which cover Australia's economic position and social conditions of contemporary Australia and has been released by the ABS for close to 100 years.

Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0)



An annual publication, able to provide valuable insight on a range of topical issues which are of current or perennial interest regarding social issues of concern. These articles aim to inform all Australian readers in an easily-understood manner, using recent data to provide answers to key social questions across the range of topics.

ORDER NOW!

Hard copies of these publications can be ordered at a cost by following the links on our web site or by calling 1300 135 070. Internet users can freely access the content from these publications - simply follow the links under Key Products on the home page of the ABS web site.